

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended.) A minimally invasive therapeutic agent delivery system for treating macular degeneration, said system comprising:
 - a reservoir comprising a therapeutic agent for dissolving lipid waste deposits in at least Bruch's membrane;
 - an elongate probe, wherein said probe:
 - defines a passage therein;
 - is configured to provide a substantially linear portion and a portion that conforms at least in part to the curvature of the eye; and
 - for insertion between the eye socket and the sclera;
 - and
 - has a proximal probe end and a distal probe end including a distal probe opening;
 - and
 - a therapeutic agent delivery apparatus, said therapeutic agent delivery apparatus comprising a needle having a sharp tip configured to pierce the sclera to a predetermined depth for delivery of the therapeutic agent, said needle being:
 - fluidly connected to said reservoir;
 - configured to be disposed within said passage; and
 - movable between a retracted inoperative position within said probe and an extended operational position when said distal probe end is disposed adjacent the sclera of an eye suffering from macular degeneration; and

wherein movement of said delivery apparatus from the inactive to the operational position causes said needle tip deform said needle and to pierce the sclera to a predetermined depth but not to pierce the retina and enables the therapeutic agents

to be dispensed from said reservoir through said needle into the eye for the treatment of macular degeneration.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 and further including a handle attached to said probe proximal end.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 and further including a handle attached to said probe proximal end, wherein said reservoir is attached to said handle.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said therapeutic agent delivery apparatus comprises an elongate needle.

5. (Currently amended) The system of claim [4] 1 wherein said probe distal end includes an eye-surface engaging surface configured to conform to the surface of the eye.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein said probe passage includes a portion conforming to the surface of the eye and a portion that angles toward the eye such that said distal probe opening is in said eye-surface engaging surface.

7. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein said passage bends said needle when said needle is moved from its retracted to its extended position.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said probe includes a probe positioning portion at said distal probe end for engaging the optic nerve and positioning said distal probe opening relative to the fovea of the eye.

Claims 9-26 (Canceled)